



COVID-19 MITIGATION UPDATE

Based upon what is known about the Omicron variant, the CDC has shortened the recommended time of isolation to five days for those COVID-positive and/or exposed. Recognizing the value of students learning in an in-person environment, St. Joseph's School is providing an opportunity to safely shorten the length of time away from school with the following new guidelines effective Tuesday, January 25:

If a student tests positive for COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) they are required to stay home for five days. If the student has no significant symptoms after five days and are fever free for at least the past 24 hours (without medication), the student has the *option* to return to school provided:

- The student wears a well-fitting mask (KN95/N95) at school and all school-sponsored activities for five days after returning to school (days 6-10). The student will also be required during days 6-10 to socially distance when eating lunch (in a designated area) due to the absence of masks. No negative COVID test is required before returning.

If a household member tests positive for COVID-19 a similar shortened approach is being adopted for those who have been exposed regardless of vaccination status. If an exposed household member should become symptomatic, the student must remain at home 5 days after the positive test result. A negative rapid test will be required before returning.

A few additional notes:

- These are updated guidelines being adopted to help healthy children get back into school as quickly as possible.
- This shortened approach is an *option*; families can freely choose to quarantine for 10 days if a child should become positive or is exposed within a household.
- Returning children will need to provide their own KN95/N95 masks; limited masks may be available at the school. Parents of those students repeatedly uncooperative in following the mask requirement will be contacted to discuss the ongoing viability of this option for their child.
- We recognize that these mitigation efforts will need to continue to adapt to changing circumstances and available information. As many are speculating, we are hopeful that this particular variant will perhaps be peaking shortly and will have less negative impact on our operations in the weeks and months ahead.